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DETACHED ANECDOTES.

INSTANCE OF A SPIRITED AND SUCCESSFUL
OPPOSITION TO A BAD MEASURE.

MANY years ago, a meeting of a number of the merchants of the town of Belfast, was assembled to consider of a plan to enter into the infamous African slave trade. The articles of the plan were proposed by a merchant well known for his enterprizes, who is long since dead. A general concurrence appeared, and the articles were on the point of being subscribed to, when a spirited individual exclaimed.—“My country has hitherto been clear of any participation in this crime. May a curse alight on the man who subscribes the first guinea.” The assembly appalled and brought to reflect by this strong declaration, separated without coming to any engagement, and the plan was never revived. K.

A MIRACLE DETECTED.

A few years ago, a young girl, a relation of a family residing in this neighbourhood, was found in the morning to have had her hair cut off.—Enquiry was made, and the girl artfully said that she had found something cold applied at the back of her head in the course of the night, but could tell nothing more of the matter. Her cousin who slept with her, could give no information. It was then determined by the family, who were methodists, that there was a supernatural interposition. The child was supposed to be proud of a fine head of hair, and her mother who had been dead some years, was conjectured to have interfered to preserve her child, by removing the cause of her pride. Thus the affair passed as a miracle for a considerable time, and a travelling methodist preacher from America, Lorenzo Dow, has recorded it as such in his journal.

It afterwards appeared from the information of a child who was present, that this girl instead of delighting in her flowing locks, wished to be in the fashion, and to become a crop, but fearing her relations would not consent to the alteration, entered into a plan with a girl about her

own age, to cut off her hair, and conceal the operation. The hair was cut off before going to bed, in the presence of the little informer, and both it and the napkin which was placed on her shoulders during the operation, were burned to prevent detection.—If other miracles recorded in methodist Journals and Magazines were in a similar manner traced, they would be found to be likewise the result either of fraud or ignorance.—It is of service to publish such detections, and thus put people on their guard against becoming the dupes of credulity. K.

FAMILY PRIDE.

Charles, Duke of Somerset, who piqued himself, some will think justly, on his family and descent, having had occasion to employ Seymour, the painter, at Pettworth, was violently offended that the artist ventured to hint at his being distantly related to the duke. He quitted the room abruptly, in considerable irritation, and the steward was immediately sent to pay for what he had done, and to dismiss him. After trying in vain to have the pictures (which his cousin had begun) finished by any other artist, his grace condescended to send an invitation to the man whom he had insulted; but he received only the following answer—“I will prove that I am of your family: I will not come.”

IMPERTINENT CURIOSITY

Freret, a learned Frenchman was taken out of his bed, under the royal government of France, at two o'clock in the morning, and carried to the Bastille. After a confinement of several weeks, and in perfect ignorance of its cause, the lieutenant of police at last called to take his examinations; “Will you have the goodness,” said Freret to that officer, as he entered the room, “to let me know for what crime I am shut up in this place?” The lieutenant replied, with great coolness, “I think you have a great deal of curiosity.”

INFALLIBLE METHOD OF SILENCING SCHISMATICS.

The following singular method of extirpating sectarianism, was proposed

by Mr. Samuel Roe, a Bedfordshire clergyman, and vicar of Stotfield, in that county, a zealous antagonist, and inveterate enemy to every one who differed from the doctrines and ceremonies of the church of England:

"I humbly propose," says this *amiable* and *benevolent* man, "to the legislative powers, when it shall seem meet, to make an example of tabernacle preachers, by enacting a law, to cut out their tongues, as well as the tongues of all field teachers, and others who preach in houses, barns, or elsewhere, without apostolical ordination, or legal authority."

The answer given to him, by one who ventured to disapprove of so effectual a method of establishing the unity of the church, ought not to be omitted:

"No Christian," says this writer, in a strain of humorous sarcasm, "No Christian can object to so mild, so meek, and so effectual a method of silencing schismatics; yet such is the imperfection of all human devices, we foresee an obstacle which may ultimately tend to make this promising scheme abortive, through the difficulty of carrying it into effect. The nation is so overrun with dissenters of one denomination or another, and their preachers so numerous, that we should despair of procuring hands enough to put the law into execution. It may even be questioned, whether one man could be met with in the three kingdoms, or even among the scalpers of America, who could be prevailed upon to be tongue-cutter, except the reverend vicar of Stotfield; and what could even *he* do alone, however zealous and active in the cause? Besides, is he immortal? would not the duration of his valuable life become very precarious from the nature of his office, and the revengeful disposition of mankind? Would it not be vain to look for a successor for such an appointment, when the place should become vacant, for where could we hope to find another Samuel Roe?"

ENGLISH BULL.

A serjeant in the guards wrote in the following manner to his wife in London, while he was absent in one of the campaigns in Flanders:—"Pray

send me a few news-papers, as I want sadly to know how we go on, and what we are doing."

MEDICAL PREJUDICES.

It is said to have been an assertion of Hippocrates, that if blood be taken from a female in a state of pregnancy, she will certainly miscarry. The quick-sighted dexterity of the present age knows by experience as well as analogy, that this learned man, and excellent physician, was in this point very much mistaken.

Galen also, who lived at a period when art and science were fettered by systems, and governed by great names, narrowly escaped death for bleeding patients till they fainted; yet it is the opinion of several writers of the present day, that in pleurisy, and other highly inflammatory diseases, the method pursued by him was perfectly justifiable, and in some cases absolutely necessary.

BURNET.

This prelate is said to have indulged in an excessive degree of pulpit action, and to have been highly gratified with an indecorous mode of approbation, a sort of humming noise from the congregation, which was a prevailing fashion at that time. This custom, so unbecoming a place of public worship, provoked the censure of bishop Sprat, the rival of the bishop of Salisbury; he checked it frequently while he was preaching, and on more than one occasion, raising his voice, exclaimed, "Peace, peace, I pray you peace!" The other divine, less delicate in his taste, is said to have sometimes sat down to enjoy it.

The violent exertions of Burnet often excited the profane merriment of Charles the second; he told him, on one occasion, as he descended from preaching at the Royal Chapel; "If my doubts were not removed by the weight of your arguments, my lord, I should be instantly silenced by the weight of your fist."

PETRIFIED CITY IN AFRICA.

This imaginary curiosity was first noticed by Kircher, in his *Mundus Subterraneus*; and Louis the fourteenth ordered one of his ambassadors to procure the body of a man from this

singular city. For this purpose the sum of two hundred pounds was offered to two Janizaries, if they would procure for the king the object of his wishes. After a certain time, the crafty Musselmén returning from a pretended journey into the desert, reported that it was not in their power to convey away so bulky a weight as the body of a man, without discovery, but that, wishing to do every thing in their power for the satisfaction of his most Christian majesty, they had, with considerable difficulty and risque, brought a petrified boy, and a petrified bun,

for which the envoy, without demur, paid the stipulated price, and the petrifications were sent to Paris.

These expensive curiosities were afterwards shown to a learned and intelligent traveller, Dr. Shaw, who proved very satisfactorily, that the bun was an Echinus, and the petrified boy no other than a statue of Cupid, on whose shoulders the marks of a quiver, separated by violence, evidently appeared, but which the Janizaries, in their mercenary eagerness, or gross ignorance, had taken no pains to efface.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

ANALYSIS OF 1809.

Continued from No. 11. p. 453.

Offendam nugis? Hæc nugæ seria ducent.

ONCE more proceed, most sapient sons of Koster,
Come, pass Columbia now, and speak of Foster,

The Custom-house Field Marshal of finance ;

Unriddle all his diplomatique dreams,
Show all his unproductive taxing schemes,

And poor Excisemen, how he makes them dance !

Tell how his blundering regulation fills,
The country round with private whiskey stills ;
How smugglers flourish, how the public purse,
Grows daily lighter, as his schemes grow worse.

Some agricult'ral knowledge if you please
Display, and how the Flaxseed brought from Greece
By our sage Chancellor, came up and grew,
Tell to your readers as you ought to do.

"Tell to our readers! sure you're making game,
Of Grecian Flaxseed—not a pickle came."

What! not a pickle; now you make me laugh,

Pray who did send two envoys to Armagh?

Sweet Mr. Wright, and pretty Mr. Pike!

Did they tell lies? I never heard the like:

Who there declared, that no one knows how much
Of Grecian Flaxseed; better far than Dutch,

Rear'd on Mount Athos! and of last year's growing,
Most scientifically mark'd, and branded
With Anno Domini, as soon as landed,

Would certainly be here in time for sowing!

Bravo! such topics let us now discard all,

Go on, and talk a while of Colonel Wardle,

And eke his paramour, "dear Mrs. Clarke"

Who most affectionately takes occasion,

To render him soft dove-like consolation,

In her epistle as you may remark.

Which (now that folks who play both — and rogue,
Are, in high circles, very much in vogue.)

She, in full credence of attention meeting,
To "all the English people!"—sends it greeting.

Your graphic Elves may likely now take fire,

Saying, such *cheri amies*, we don't admire,

Not we ourselves, and aptly may cry "zounds!"

This *entrez nous*, which you so much stress lay on,

Reminds us of the story of Actæon,

Hunted and worried by his own Stag-hounds!

Diana's chastity indeed might cover,

Such vengeful scotching of a prying lover;

But *ne quid nimir*, would much better grace,

A nymph of Glo'ster, or of Westbourne-place.

Belike the harlotry, which raised this storm,

Is sagely conjur'd up to blink reform;

Though all its purport, we can't now discern,

A certain truth from its aspect we learn;

That favours from a meretricious source,

Are like Martello tow'rs, of little force:

The upholsterer bath indeed one comfort still,

That peradventure he'll be paid his bill.

So far, so good, pray will you deign to state,

Who paid at Glo'ster-place for all the plate,

Cut glass, nice horses, wine, fine beds and coaches?

Nav, really, Sir, this question now approaches,

To what you call comparison, we see

Its tendency; 'tis like the rule of three,

As if you'd state, Westbourne, two thousand pound

Where all with strict economy was found,

A little, shabby, close, retir'd street,

And every thing so moderate, though neat.

"If Westbourne cost two thousand, then we grant ye,

The furnishing of Glo'ster must cost twenty—

Thirty, perhaps." Enough, you've said it,

You'll be so good as mention, now, who paid it?

"Lord Sir we cannot tell, but we suppose,

The expense of Glo'ster-place was paid by those

..... who pay for all!"